Proposals from Andhra Pradesh pending with CWC

2314. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals from the State of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Central Water Commission;

(b) since when these projects are pending with Commission; and

(c) by when these projects will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Out of 27 irrigation project proposals of Andhra Pradesh for which detailed project reports were received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal from time to time, 17 projects have been accepted by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations; Compliance to which are awaited from the State Government for according investment clearance by the Planning Commission. The remaining 10 irrigation projects are under various stages of appraisal to establish the techno-economic viability before they could be considered for acceptance by the Advisory Committee. The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government comply with the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

Inclusion of river erosion in Natural Calamity Management Act

2315. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of river erosion is yet to be included in the National Calamity Management Act, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the erosion by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries has turned into a serious problem for Assam;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has still not given due attention to the problem and even it was not included in the list of calamities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the steps being taken to control the erosion of river Brahmaputra and its tributaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No Act by the name of "National Calamity Management Act, 2000" has been enacted or introduced in the Parliament. Flood Management including erosion control being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of Flood Management and erosion control Schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance, which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Government of India has set up Brahmaputra Board under an act of Parliament. The responsibility of the Board *inter alia* includes preparation of Master Plan to control bank erosion in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. 25 Master Plans including that of Brahmaputra have so far been prepared and sent to the State Governments for implementation. The Government of India had also been extending Central Loan Assistance to the State Government of Assam from 1974-75 to 1999-2000. An amount of Rs. 390.94 crore was released to the State Government of Assam as loan and Rs. 10.09 crore as Grant-in-Aid till March 2000. In addition an amount of Rs. 163.95 crore also provided to Assam since 1998-99 till date for taking up critical anti erosion and flood control schemes.

Further, Brahmaputra Board has completed anti erosion schemes worth Rs. 21.91 crore in Assam and schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 45.18 crore are further proposed to be taken up during Tenth Plan.

During the year 2004-05 the Government of India has approved the scheme, "Critical flood control and anti erosion scheme in Brahmaputra and Barak valley" under state sector with estimated cost of Rs. 150.00 crore as the share of Central Government (90% grant and 10% loan), for North Eastern States including Assam.

Recognizing the importance of the flood management and erosion control, the Government of India also constituted a High Level Task Force to look into the problems of Assam and other flood prone States which has brought the issues in focus and has suggested various measures for effective flood management and erosion control.